



EMILY NOYES | NW MISSOURIAN

CRACKED FOUNDATION
Increase proposed amid budget deficit

KENDRICK CALFEE
Community News Editor | @KoalaCalf

An increase in the designated fee for Wellness Services was proposed to Student Senate Feb. 18 as a way to combat a heavy deficit the office is adding to, an issue Wellness associated with lack of funding and the rising cost of healthcare for college students across the nation.

The designated fee for Wellness Services sits at \$7.10 per credit hour as of the spring 2020 semester. Student Affairs and the Finance and Controller's Office proposed that in order to have a sustainable operation of Wellness Services, a \$4.65 increase in the designated fee would be necessary. In total, the new proposal would bring the Wellness fee to \$11.75 per credit hour.

Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker presented statewide statistics and institutional budgetary information to Student Senate that further explained the reason for an increased fee proposal, focusing on how Wellness Services is funded completely by the designated fee, insurance billing and grants.

Even with allocated grant money, the office is seeing a deficit that has been a challenge to overcome with rising healthcare costs.

Proposed Designated Fee Increase

Table with 3 columns: Item, New Fee, Same Fee. Rows include: Two new staff members (\$11.75 New Fee vs \$7.10 Same Fee), One new counselor (\$164.50 Semester vs \$99.40 Semester), Maintain Green Dot and Hope 4 All (\$329.00 Academic Year vs \$198.80 Academic Year), Five year of sustainable operation, Decreased waiting times, Government grant programs suspended, Possible charges to see a counselor, Elimination of alcohol, cannabis, and suicide support, Increased waiting times.

“We are at the point where we will have to change services if we don’t raise the fee,” Baker said. “(The Wellness Center) does not receive auxiliary money; it’s based on revenue they generate through insurance billing and fee billing. That’s their budget.”

ees, which totaled \$1,194,819.

In fiscal year 2020, the Wellness Clinic Lab brought in \$243,900 in clinic billing revenue but had \$267,034 in expenditures, leaving a deficit of \$23,134.

Both deficits are paid by an emergency fund, with money allocated toward the possibility of a deficit, but those funds are limited in nature, as they are meant for other programs and services Wellness offers students.

Baker said without the passing of the proposed increase in the fee, there is a possibility for programs like Green Dot and Hope 4 All to be eliminated because of the uncertainty of grant funds. The extra \$4.65 per credit hour would sustain certain services and pose the possibility for additional programs and staff members, the most notable of which being a new counselor.

“(The \$4.65 increase) would yield a minimum of two additional staff members, so we would maintain the two grant positions,” Baker said.

He went on to explain the grant positions, which consist of two \$300,000 grants that will run out over the next year and a half. The fee increase would provide enough funds to continue those programs when the grant funds expire.

SEE WELLNESS | A4

First-generation panel reveals unheard lens



EMILY LLYOD | TOWER YEARBOOK

Senior Asma Hassan, Student Senate president and a psychology and human services major, spoke about her experiences as a first-generation student Oct. 21 at the Forever Green campaign launch. As a panel member at the First-Generation Focus event Feb. 18, she answered questions about the barriers between first-generation students and success at Northwest and how the University can break down those barriers.

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Campus News Editor | @SammieCollison

The Student Success Center in conjunction with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosted the second installment of its First-Generation Focus series Feb. 18 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom featuring a panel of five first-generation students answering faculty and staff questions about their experiences.

With enrollment of first-generation students at Northwest reaching an all-time high of 38% this year, the series is part of the University’s partnership with American Association of State Colleges and Universities in an effort to retain and graduate first-generation students, who do not succeed at as high of rates as non-first-generation students.

Director of Academic Success and Retention Allison Hoffmann

said the aim of the event was to learn directly from first-generation students about their experiences and challenges so faculty and staff can help those students overcome those barriers.

In selecting the panelists, Hoffmann said she and Associate Provost of Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallett wanted to bring forward students from different years and different backgrounds.

“We felt it was really important to have some students who were from rural backgrounds and also some students who were from more of an urban area,” Hoffmann said. “And so we really tried to ensure we had students from different majors and different backgrounds but all with that common theme of first-generation.”

SEE GENERATION | A4

IN THE NEWS A2 Young Life

Religious organization rebrands after recognition, takes new name and focuses on fellowship of members.

IN THE NEWS A3 Smooch a Pooch

Advocates for Animal Awareness partnered with the New Nodaway Humane Society to raise money for the local shelter.

IN A&E

The bee population, both on Northwest’s campus and across the country, is on the decline.

A7 B-R-Bee

IN SPORTS

Northwest women’s basketball is on the verge of its first postseason appearance in the Austin Meyer era.

A3 On the cusp



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Campus Christian group rebrands

MADELINE MAPES
News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

Young Life, a campus ministry that used to be known as The Well, was newly recognized as an organization on campus by the Student Senate on Feb. 11.

This organization is a non-denominational religious group for students and community members.

Young Life is a national organization running summer camps across 18 states and local club meetings as part of many high schools, colleges and universities across the U.S.

At Northwest, Young Life holds weekly meetings along with Bible studies.

Kylie Miller, a junior biology/psychology major, is the head student leader of Young Life at Northwest. She said her parents and older brother, Zac Miller, who graduated from Northwest two years ago, were involved with Young Life when she was growing up.

When she was in middle school, Kylie Miller was a part of Wild Life, which is the middle school's version of Young Life.

"My parents both came to know Christ through Young Life, so it has always been an important part of my family's faith journey," Kylie Miller said.

Kylie Miller said she has been attending Young Life and WyldLife meetings with her family since she was a toddler and started going to her own meetings when she was in seventh grade.

Kylie Miller helps coordinate the other leaders and makes sure

they have everything they need to be leaders of the group. Kylie Miller said in a message that the leaders of Young Life run the club. They organize games, make announcements and make sure everyone feels cared for and welcomed by the campus ministry.

Kylie Miller said Young Life at Northwest is hosted off campus, but it is looking to move on campus in the fall of 2020. The group meets every Wednesday at 7:57 p.m. Women's Bible study meets every Monday, and the men's Bible study meets every Friday.

Two years ago, Kylie Miller, her brother Zac Miller and a few of their friends started The Well, another campus ministry, off campus that had the same core values as Kylie Miller's church, Wellspring, which was founded by Kylie Miller's father, Bob Miller.

After Zac Miller graduated from Northwest in 2018, he began as a part-time staff member with Young Life. Kylie Miller said when she and Zac Miller found out Missouri Western had started a Young Life group three years ago, they decided they wanted to bring Young Life to Northwest. The siblings decided to change The Well to Young Life in fall 2019.

Zac Miller also grew up around Young Life with his family and sister. After he graduated, Zac Miller received a part-time position at Missouri Western State University's Young Life last year.

Zac Miller said Young Life is about loving people no matter where they are in life. He also said



MARTINA PASCUZZO | NW MISSOURIAN
Young Life leader junior Kylie Miller (right) sits with junior Erinn Fitzgerald at Bible study Feb. 17. Young Life is new to campus after official recognition from Student Senate Feb. 11.

that the organization does not have any expectations for members or people thinking about joining Young Life. He simply wants people to come and feel encouraged by their fellow Young Life members.

"Creating a compelling community" was the overall reason behind Young Life, Zac Miller said.

"(Young Life) focuses a lot more on, creating the relationship (with Jesus) before you're even ever sharing Jesus with people," Kylie Miller

said when she explained how Young Life is different from other campus ministries. There are nine other campus religious organizations recognized on campus, including: Seven Thunders Club, Christian Campus House, Campus Crusade for Christ, Indian Student Association, Muslim Students' Association, Newman Catholic Center, The Bridge Collegiate Ministry, The Lighthouse and Wesley Student Center.

Erinn Fitzgerald, a junior, is a leader of Young Life. Fitzgerald said she was invited by a friend to go to The Well and has stayed with the group throughout the transition from The Well to Young Life. She has been a part of the group for three years.

"I was just hooked from the moment I was around everyone. I felt really welcomed and very invited," Fitzgerald said as she described her first experiences with The Well and Young Life.

5k raises money, awareness for heart disease

ASHLEY LOSSON
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Early Feb. 15, families braved the cold weather to make their way to the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse to take part in this year's Heart and Sole 5K.

The event was held to raise awareness about heart disease and raise money to provide automated external defibrillators, AEDs, to retirement homes. Along with these, families were able to walk the track in honor of their loved ones.

Cardiovascular diseases have been the leading cause of death in the United States for the past century, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rita Miller, community relations and marketing manager at Mosaic Life Care in Maryville, and the Mosaic Life Care team wants to change this.

Miller said the goal of the Heart and Sole 5K is to raise awareness about the issue and promote heart-healthy lifestyles.

"We had two individuals in our community that were in significant positions... and they both died within a very short time frame," Miller said. "So after that, we decided, 'We need to keep heart disease awareness at the forefront of our community,' so we held this event."

Heart and Sole has gained a large following over the years, with 75 people registered to walk.

People who wanted to participate in the walk had the option to register for the event online. With the \$20 registration came a free t-shirt and the option to have a loved one's name hung up at the front of the event. The \$20 fee went



ABIGAYLE RUSH | NW MISSOURIAN
Heart and Sole 5K, hosted by Mosaic Life Care and the University, raised money to provide local senior citizen centers with automated external defibrillators Feb. 15 in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse.

toward purchasing AEDs for retirement homes.

An AED is a machine that diagnoses life-threatening heart diseases and can also send shocks to keep the heart at a stable rhythm.

About 50% of the senior citizens in Maryville have AEDs readily available to them. This realization

is what made Ashleigh Waltz, a volunteer at Mosaic Life Care, want to do something more for the senior citizens in the community.

"I went to Rita Miller and Jackie Ross and they told me that somebody from a senior citizen center had called and said that they didn't have an AED," Waltz said. "We

thought that was kind of crazy because you want them in places that are more populated."

From there, Waltz decided that she would work with Miller and Ross on her research project in order to raise money to provide senior citizen homes with AEDs.

Though Waltz graduated from Northwest in fall 2019, she has made headway toward her goal. "We've raised \$600,000 so far,"

Waltz said. "The hospital donated, the Lions Club donated and then we've had various other organizations donate."

According to the American Heart Association, one AED is about \$2,000. With this money, approximately 200 AEDs can be donated to Maryville homes.

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Smooch a Pooch event raises funds

LIZ SWAFFORD
News Reporter | @lizswafford3

Advocates for Animal Awareness hosted the Smooch a Pooch event in the J.W. Jones Student Union Feb. 14.

Advocates for Animal Awareness charged \$1 for anyone to get their picture taken with a dog from the Nodaway County Humane Society. All the proceeds went back to the Humane Society after the event.

Vice President for Advocates for Animal Awareness, which is a student run organization, junior Deja Thomas said the event was to get everyone in the spirit of Valentine's Day, especially since there was a professional photographer there to capture the event.

Advocates for Animals Awareness have been planning this event since last semester. The group had to go through a lot of steps to get permission from both the Humane Society to get the dogs and the Union to host the event there.

Thomas said the thing the organization needed the most was to talk to the Humane Society, since students from the organization would be transporting the dogs back and forth.

"The planning process was just getting into contact with the Humane Society and seeing if they would allow us to do the event and when we were able to do it. It was basically just getting approval," Thomas said.

Adviser for Advocates for Animal Awareness Kristina Martinez



Freshman Taylor Miller celebrates Valentine's Day by donating \$1 to get a picture with Scooter, a dog available for adoption from the New Nodaway Humane Society at Smooch a Pooch, hosted by the Advocates for Animal Awareness Feb. 14.

said when the students came up with the idea, she felt a little nervous about people getting that close to shelter dogs.

"These dogs are dogs off the street, they aren't therapy animals or service animals, so we don't

know what their potential behavior is. Service dogs are trained for people to get close to them; these dogs are not," Martinez said.

Before anyone even got to go near the dogs, the participants had to sign a waiver that said they were aware that Advocates of An-

imal Awareness was not liable for anything that happened while they held the dogs.

Martinez is also a part of the board at the Humane Society, which is a group of individuals who work at the Humane Society and deal with the financials and what

they can and can't do with the animals in the shelter. The board approves any activities the animals at the shelter are involved in. She said she easily relays information back and forth between the two groups.

Advocates for Animal Awareness works closely with the Humane Society, so this is one of many events they will host with them.

"I look out for what we can help with. I look for what we need to do a fundraiser for or if they need help with an event; that's what my line of communication is," Martinez said.

Martinez said this was not only a great fundraiser but also a great publicity event for both groups involved.

"If the people don't want the picture we take of them, then we'll just send it over to the Humane Society and they can post them on their social media, and we'll post them on ours, and it can give both of us some press," Martinez said.

Advocates for Animal Awareness also sold chocolate in the Union last week in order to benefit the organization.

Fundraising Chair for Advocates for Animal Awareness sophomore Jordan Unger said people who came to buy chocolates also thought about coming back for the event.

"We had some people say they wanted to come to Smooch a Pooch when we promoted it while selling chocolates, so we're hoping people come," Unger said. "We got the word out as best as we could."

Iowa caucuses leave lingering impact on candidates

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Campus News Editor | @SammieCollison

The Democratic Presidential Primary race appeared to be Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., vs. former Vice President Joe Biden in January, but with the first two major primaries past and two more to go before Super Tuesday, the proverbial leaderboard has been shaken, with Biden's foundation marred with cracks.

During the early months of the primary race, Biden was seen as the most "electable" candidate, using his natural association with President Barack Obama to sell the idea that his administration would be a return to normalcy.

According to RealClearPolitics, Biden was polling between 24% and 32% nationally throughout January, with Sanders close behind, polling between 18% and 27% nationally.

However, his defeats by a wide

margin in the Iowa Caucuses, where he came in fourth, and in the New Hampshire, where he came in fifth, have debased his former standing as the favored moderate candidate and led the campaign to place much of its hope in South Carolina, where Biden is popular with the older black voters who comprise most of the Democratic Party there.

With Biden's losses in predominantly white states, Northwest's College Democrats President junior Spencer Owens said a loss in a southern state could be devastating to his chances.

"I think that the South Carolina Primary is going to be one of the most exciting nights of this election season for that reason," Owens said in an email from Jefferson City, Missouri. "The political life of VP Biden rests entirely on the shoulders of the Palmetto State."

Following the New Hampshire primary Feb. 11, Biden dropped from 31% to 26% in South Carolina polls, according to RealClearPolitics. At the same time, Sanders made a 4% jump up to 21%. Billionaire Tom Steyer has steadily risen in South Carolina polls since January, sitting just below 17%.

"I still believe the Vice President will carry the state, but not nearly by the margin he assumed he would at the beginning of February," Owens said in an email.

Where former front-runners like Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Ma., have faltered, Sanders has continued climbing, with former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg showing potential to fill Biden's shoes as the lead moderate in the race.

"I think Senator Sanders has met or exceeded the expectations that

were set for him many weeks ago," Owens said in an email. "He won a commanding victory in New Hampshire and was able to nearly match Mayor Buttigieg's delegate count out of Iowa. He has taken center stage as this race's front runner, but shaky is the head that wears the crown."

The Iowa Caucuses didn't just deliver a blow to Biden, the reporting app fiasco that caused results to be announced days later could threaten the institution of caucuses and Iowa's status as "first in the nation" for primary elections.

According to NPR, Head of the Iowa Democratic Party Troy Price resigned Feb. 12, saying "Democrats deserved better than what happened on caucus night" in his resignation letter.

"I think the issues revolving around this past caucus shined a bright light on the issue that Iowa

does not represent the entirety of the Democratic Party," Owens said in an email. "I would like to see the DNC choose a more diverse state in which to hold the first primary, so that all members of our party can have an early voice."

Owens said he thinks many states will move away from caucuses and use a standard primary election system.

"The caucus system has been seen as archaic by many for quite a few years now, but we allowed them to continue because we found them to be a quirky idea that only a few states still employed," Owens said in an email "I think the people of Iowa and of all caucus states would prefer to cast a ballot for their preferred candidate and ensure that their indi-

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POLICE BLOTTERS

for the week of Feb. 20

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

Feb. 12
An arrest warrant was issued to **Rashonda R. Alexander** at Valk Hall.

Feb. 14
A summons was issued to **Dwan L. Marshal** for stealing at the **Dean L. Hubbard** Center for Innovation.
There is an open investigation for harassment.

Feb. 15
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Hudson Hall.
A summons was issued to **Nicolas J. King** for trespassing at Perrin Hall.
There is an open investigation for harassment at Hudson Hall.

Correction:
Due to an error from Northwest Police, last week’s blotter said a summons was issued to **Logan P. Adams**, 19; **Jeremy D. Root**, 19; and **Wyatt M. Ursendowski**, 19, for possession of marijuana, when they received a summons for a liquor law violation.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Feb. 10
There is an ongoing investigation for harassment on the 700 block of South Mulberry Street.
A summons was issued to **Joseph E. Everhart**, 41, of Hopkins, Missouri, and **Kristen L. Clark**, 27, of Hopkins, Missouri, for open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle on the 1200 block of South Main Street.

Feb. 11
There is an ongoing investigation for domestic assault on the 100 block of West 11th Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for fraud on the 200 block of East Third Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for burglary on the 300 block of West Third Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for leaving the scene on the 1600 block of South Main Street.

Feb. 14
A summons was issued to **Cady L. Crawford**, 19, for minor in possession and an equipment violation on the 500 block of North Market Street.
A summons was issued to **Taylor K. Kennedy**, 28, of Overland Park, Kansas, for speeding and driving while intoxicated on the 2900 block of South Main Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for fraud on the 1000 block of North Walnut Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 600 block of East Seventh Street.
A summons was issued to **Stephanie L. Tracy**, 31, for wanted on warrant and failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.
A summons was issued to **Christy M. Harris**, 41, for failure to obey a school bus stop sign on the 1400 block of South Munn Street.

Feb. 15
A summons was issued to **Quetin D. Ebrecht**, 23, of Barnard, Missouri, for possession of drug paraphernalia on the 1700 block of East First Street.
A summons was issued to **Kristen L. Chitty**, 24, of Grant City, Missouri, for failure to maintain the right half of the roadway on the 1700 block of East First Street.
A summons was issued to **Nathaniel P. Galbraith**, 21, of Conception Junction, Missouri, for driving while intoxicated and failure to display lighted headlamps on the 500 block of North Main Street.
A summons was issued to **Garrett M. Torres**, 21, of Hopkins, Missouri, for driving while intoxicated and failure to maintain the right half of the roadway on the 1700 block of East First Street.

Feb. 16
A summons was issued to **Quetin D. Erbrecht**, 23, of Barnard, Missouri, for driving while intoxicated, possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to display lighted headlamps on the 300 block of North Depot Street.

WELLNESS CONTINUED FROM A1

Baker said the fee increase would aid in addressing wait times for certain services like counseling, address growing mental health needs and have a sustainable operating model taking into account inflation in healthcare for at least five years.
“This is enhancing the wellbeing of our student body, not just maintaining the good work we do now,” Baker said.
The Wellness Services fee has increased in intervals over the past 10 years, with its most recent being an increase to the \$7.10 rate in 2014. Then, they addressed similar issues relating to the rising cost of healthcare and considered input from students on adding services like annual outreach and events that Wellness has on the campus calendar.
Baker said the new five-year projection would be sufficient for Wellness to operate in a more comfortable state while maintaining services students use every day.
In the Feb. 18 discussion, several student senators voiced concerns as well as comments of approval regarding the increased fee.
Organizational Affairs Vice Chair sophomore Connor Thompson said he approved of the \$4.65 fee increase.
“We are focused on the students here at Northwest,” Thompson said. “One of the biggest things I want is quality... quality for our students.”
Several members of the Wellness Center staff attended the Feb. 18 Student Senate meeting. Of the staff, Executive Director and Assistant Vice President of Health and Wellness Gerald Wilmes spoke the most, largely toward the overall vision of the office.
“For the last 15 years, we have built and grown what’s called an integrated service,” Wilmes said. “It’s considered the best practice model, where our counseling staff and clinic

staff are in the same facility.”
Wilmes said the integrated model means when a student goes in for something minor at the clinic, they also offer screenings for drugs, alcohol and suicidality.
Wilmes further explained the model to Student Senate with an example from when a student came in for recurring headaches and was asked if they had suicidal thoughts, which they answered yes to. The student was then able to see a counselor or that same day, meeting more than one need of that student at one time.
However, Wellness staff said the integrated model is constricted when it is overbooked and too busy to get people in when needed.
Wilmes said there is research showing most people who commit suicide see a primary care provider in the 30 days before their death.
“The science behind that is why we do these screenings,” Wilmes said. “If we have the best quality of our clinic and the best quality counselors around, which I believe we do, but we are disconnected and there is not that integration ... you don’t get that quality service.”
Student Senate members began sharing their thoughts on the fee increase after hearing from Baker and Wilmes. Touching on how healthcare costs are rising in America, International Representative junior Sneha Ojha said Wellness Services is one of the best features of Northwest’s campus for international students.
“A lot of international students, and me myself, have utilized their services various times,” Ojha said. “For our university to provide this for us, it’s a very big thing. However, if I were to pull out my phone right now and schedule an appointment for anything, I will have to wait.”
Senior Student Affairs Chair senior Taylor Moore said the fee increase would make sense to help Wellness battle the rising issue of mental health and be available

in triage situations when students need more immediate attention.
“We’ve had a lot more people trying to schedule appointments in crisis mode,” Moore said. “Getting them the resources they need is super important.”
Considering wait times, Wilmes said his experience with Wellness Services shows time and again that offices can’t hire out of issues surrounding mental health in institutions. He said the problem surrounding rising mental health concerns is nationwide and affects countless colleges and universities every day.
The proposed fee increase would provide for programs that were suggested to the office by students, as well as the likelihood of wait times for current options to fall.
But with an increase in designated fees for one aspect of University operations, those drafting the budget are also made to consider other areas that may need fund adjustments.
There are six different types of designated fees students pay. The categories included in the designated fee are: Health and Wellness at \$7.10 per credit hour, Campus Master Plan Programming at \$20 per credit hour, Academic Classrooms and Equipment at \$12.50 per credit hour, Campus Recreation at \$11.75 per credit hour, Student Programming at \$30.70 per credit hour, and Facility Improvements, Debt and Sustainability at \$25.50 per credit hour.
Acknowledging these categories, Student Senate Vice President senior Kirayle Jones said there is a possibility for issues in funding priorities.
“How many of you actually go to the Rec Center? That’s something to think about,” Jones said. “How can we match other things on campus and where they are at for funding and still give everyone the help and experience they need?”
Baker talked about the designated fee as a whole prior to the Wellness fee proposal, saying the Uni-

versity is always battling the issue of state funding coinciding with affordability.
“We are very, very concerned at Northwest about the cost of attendance,” Baker said. “It’s a dynamic game when you look at state appropriations, tuition that’s controlled.”
Baker said 98.4% of education general revenues are controlled through state appropriations and tuition and fees, both of which the state determines. The designated fee comes into play to make up for any lack of funds, but it is required by the state for Student Senate to vote on any proposals from the Finance Office and Student Affairs regarding the fee. After Student Senate votes and drafts its recommendation, it is sent to the Board of Regents for approval.
Baker said it is important for students to understand the context of the fees they are paying and voting to approve or disapprove of.
Referring to a graph depicting the changes in state and institutional funding since 1990, Baker said Missouri is somewhere in the middle of the road when it comes to state funding.
“What has changed since 1990 is not what it costs to educate a student; it’s who’s paying it,” Baker said. “Missouri has lowered the appropriations for state schools. That’s a fact, not a criticism. ... that’s just what’s happened. Missouri is doing a lot better than some states and worse than other states. Cost of attendance is somewhere in the middle.”
Student Senate will vote on the increased Wellness fee at its Feb. 25 meeting. Its recommendation would be considered by the Board of Regents at its March 19 board meeting, which, if approved and implemented, would bring the total designated fee for Wellness to \$11.75 per credit hour.

GENERATION CONTINUED FROM A1

The 10 questions for the panelists were selected from submissions by the attendees of the first event in the series Jan. 22.
Panel member and Northwest senior Asma Hassan, Student Senate president and a psychology and human services major, grew up in Liberty, Missouri, but her parents immigrated to the U.S. from Saudi Arabia after she was born in order to give her and her siblings a chance to attend American universities.
She teared up when talking about coping with barriers and said reaching out for help from her advisers when she felt overwhelmed and alone was difficult for her.
“It’s a very big thing to be that courageous, and at that moment in time, I just remember I was super stressed out about everything,” Hassan said. “I think my stress elevated too because I had the idea of the weight of my family too. We came into this country to get an education, and I have to succeed, and I have to do this not only for myself, but for my family also. ... I can’t fail; I can’t.”
Hassan said she found support in her siblings when she didn’t feel she could discuss challenges with her parents.
Panel member senior Alica Trodter, an applied health sciences ma-

jor, said she’s had little family support throughout college. She said she is not on speaking terms with her mother and not receiving financial support from either of her parents.
In addition to financial aid issues, which panelists sophomores Haley Endsley and Ryan Shurvington said was a major barrier for them, Trodter said she had difficulty adjusting to living on campus.
“I did not have fun living on campus,” Trodter said. “My first-year anxieties stemmed from my roommate and neighbors surrounding. They weren’t nice; it was hard to understand why people treated me that way.”
Trodter said she also saved money by living off campus because she was accustomed to working and was able to pay rent rather than needing more financial aid for on-campus housing.
Mallett pointed out that when discussing their experiences with Residential Life, the white students on the panel had positive experiences and the underrepresented students on the panel had mostly negative experiences.
Trodter said separating students in the residence halls so they’re only interacting with students like themselves would be a bad move, but the roommate selection process could be improved.
“I think actually taking the time to where someone can meet their roommate in a more personal way

than through an email or through a Facebook message or a 25-question quiz,” Trodter said. “That’s not personable; that’s not normal. Internet dating isn’t normal, so I feel like throwing kids together through the internet isn’t normal either.”
She said it would also benefit incoming freshmen if they could contact their residential assistant, BRIDGE and hall director before move-in day to have that point of contact if they have questions or concerns.
Freshman Savion Robinson, a human services major with a business minor, said he also had roommate problems, but coming to Maryville from Kansas City was a huge culture shock.
Another difference between underrepresented and non-underrepresented students on the panel was their perception of being a first-generation student.
Hassan said she didn’t realize she was a first-generation student until she was an upperclassman at Northwest. Trodter also didn’t know what the term meant until she got to the University but immediately got a negative impression about the up-and-coming buzzword.
“When I first came here, and when it was found out that first generation was a new thing, it was kind of used in a negative connotation, when people found out that you were a first-generation stu-

dent,” Trodter said. “It was more along the lines of like, ‘Oh, so how did you get here if nobody went to college before you?’”
With the non-underrepresented students, they saw it as more of a positive thing. Shurvington, an agricultural education major from a small town outside of Springfield, Missouri, said he saw it as starting a positive cycle for future generations.
Endsley, an international business major with a minor in diversity, equity and inclusion from the St. Louis, Missouri, area, said she sees it as a motivation and a challenge.
“I really view as a positive thing, because it’s what keeps me going, and when I talk to my parents about it, and I say, ‘Oh, I’m just going to drop out,’ as a joke, they said, ‘No, you’re going to keep going; you got it,’” Endsley said.
Inside the classroom, the panelists said all they wanted from faculty was for them to be understanding when first-generation students struggle during their freshman year and for faculty to check in if it’s apparent they are not succeeding.
“I’d say always reach out, because we’re always fighting a silent battle that we really don’t want to talk about, probably from home or here,” Robinson said.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Senate updates recognition policy

ASHLEY LOSSON
News Reporter | @AshleyL24272165

Student Senate updated the organization recognition process which now requires leadership to attend special training sessions in order to learn how to use Bearcat Link System.
The new recognition process goes into effect this semester. The first training will be held April 6 and April 20 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Boardroom.
Student Senate’s goal with this new training is to be sure that clubs and organizations are aware of the processes and stay up to date in Bearcat Link.
“At the start of each year, they have to go into Bearcat Link and re-register their organization,” Bailey Hendrickson, president of the Organizational Affairs Committee, said, “but we have been struggling with is not all organizations aren’t knowledgeable on how to re-register.”
The reason the new training has been added is because organizations aren’t fully aware of how to re-register each academic year.
The new training was added in order to help familiarize the organization leaders with the Bearcat Link system in order to help the re-registration process go by quicker and to allow the organizations to stay up to date.



ABIGAYLE RUSH | NW MISSOURIAN

Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Ben Kutz addresses Student Senate at its meeting Feb. 11. The committee proposed a change to the bylaws that requires student organizations to attend Bearcat Link training in order to maintain their recognition status.

The Bearcat Link system is a platform that allows the leadership of clubs to keep their organizations up to date and keep members updated.
“It only takes about five minutes to do the whole thing, and they just have to fill out a form to update their exec board,” Hendrickson said.
Hendrickson said that this new

training has been added in order to help get organizational leaders more educated on the process.
“When the transitioning process is happening, they’re not sure on what the next steps are to take,” Hendrickson said. “By adding this training process, we’re hoping that it’ll get them more knowledgeable on that.”

The training will consist of teaching the executive boards how to navigate Bearcat Link and keep their organizations up to date.
Connor Thompson, vice president of the Organizational Affairs Committee, said that the biggest problem that they, the organizations, have been running into is not accurately knowing how to update their organization in Bearcat Link. Adding new general information about the organization and keeping members up to date.
It is recommended that organizations send at least two of the people on the executive team so multiple people are aware of how to operate the system.
If an organization chooses not to re-register after being sent reminders, its Bearcat Link will be frozen. They will still be able to operate as an organization, but they will not receive help from the Student Senate, unless they go through the recognition process again. With the lack of help from the Student Senate, organizations will not be able to get tables on the second floor of the Student Union to promote their organization and will not receive funding from the Student Senate.
The only organizations that will be exempt from this training are sports organizations.

Trump’s budget ignores students

ZANE CULJAT
Columnist
@TheMissourian



This shouldn’t come as a shock to any of us college folk, regardless of which side of the aisle you happen to be on, but get ready for another fiscal slap in the face.

President Donald Trump proposed his budget for the 2021 fiscal year Feb. 10. The \$4.8 trillion package is headlined by a number of slashes to federal welfare programs, following through with the commander-in-chief’s plan to lessen the nation’s security blanket.

Although the list of changes are what one would likely consider typical in this day and age — spending increased for defense purposes, the border wall and, everyone’s favorite, the Space Force — one of the biggest wounds hashed out would fall on the U. S. Department of Education. Trump wants to decrease funding by almost 8% from fiscal year 2019, only allocating around \$67 billion.

What does that mean for college students and recent graduates? Well, depending on the type of loan under one’s name, it could be worse than they think. Subsidized student loans would essentially be eradicated. While enrolled as a student, the borrower would be responsible for paying the sky-high interest out-of-pocket, not the federal government.

This hurdle won’t necessarily hit borrowers until after they graduate and is dependent on who they work for. These cuts would also sound the death knell of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness initiative.

As it stands, those employed full-time with a nonprofit or some other government entity are eligible for forgiveness of outstanding balance on their student loans after making a decade of monthly payments to Uncle Sam. And let’s be honest — making more than the minimum is probably a dream on its own.

In contrast to Trump’s ideals, Democratic candidates like Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., are pushing for a “forgiveness for all” notion. There are differences between the two. For instance, Sanders wants all debt forgiven, no questions asked. Warren agrees, but to an extent. She puts a maximum income of \$250,000 on her proposal. Any borrower making that amount or more would be considered exempt.

Trump’s budget would also put a cap on borrowing for Graduate and Parent PLUS Loans, both on a yearly and lifetime basis. The best course of action in those cases would be to refinance, especially now that the rate is down to 1.9%, thanks to interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve.

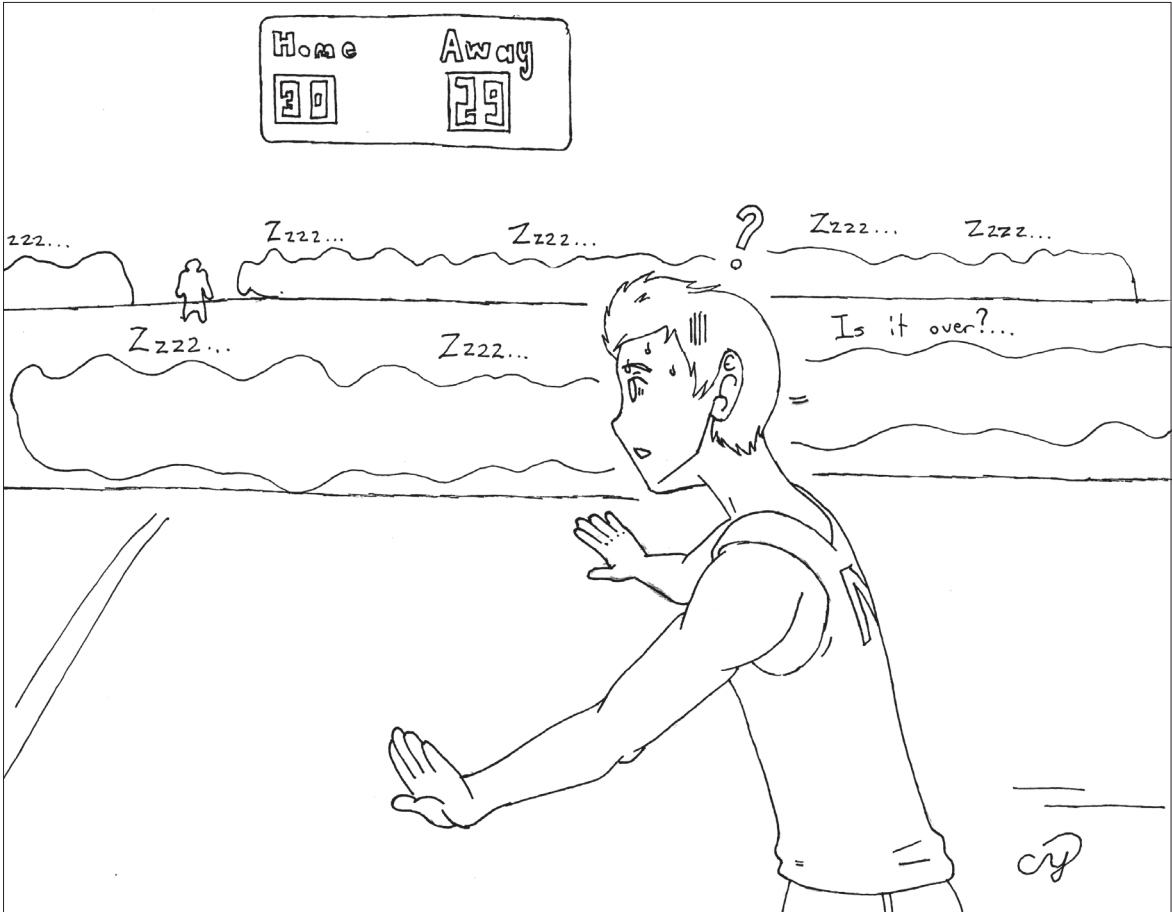
In Trump’s proposal, student loan debt as we know it would not be cancelled outright under any circumstances. Of course, that’s the point Sanders’ and Warren’s plans are hammering home.

Typically, one would be the first to look at all this and wonder what could possibly come out in a positive light.

Regardless of what the president might say regarding his plan, college students from coast to coast should be concerned.

“We’re going to have a very good budget with a very powerful military budget, because we have no choice,” Trump said after his proposal was announced.

If anything, that line alone should be a cue to throw even thinking of being debt-free out the window.



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Northwest faithful fail to support men’s basketball

Northwest men’s basketball has lost one game in the last 23 months. The Bearcats have been a top-ranked basketball team in Division II for half a decade. They’ve lost six games in their last 130 matchups.

And still, this season, the Bearcats haven’t experienced the same support at Bearcat Arena they were offered a season ago, despite the fact that they haven’t lost a game in the venue since 2018.

By the numbers, attendance at Bearcat Arena is up so far this season compared to last year’s pace. The Bearcats have drawn an average crowd of 1,189 fans per game in their first 12 home contests this season, compared to 1,090 fans in the same timeframe a season ago.

But the crowds, this season, have been different. And more particularly, they’ve been quieter, a phenomenon sophomore guard Trevor Hudgins highlighted in the aftermath of Northwest’s 83-57 win over Fort Hays State Jan. 25 at Bearcat Arena.

“Listen, I don’t know what it is, but last year (the crowd) would be into it the whole game,” Hudgins said. “(The crowd) just started like, going down. Like I could literally hear everything on the court. I could hear everyone’s shoes stepping, I could hear everyone talking. ... Normally, I’ll have a little bit of trouble hearing stuff. But it was just silent in the gym. I just wanted someone to say something, someone to clap — something.”

A request for more cheers isn’t something that should have to come from a sophomore guard who has lost one basketball game in his collegiate career. It’s not the kind of request that should have to come from one of the best players on the best team in the conference. It’s not the kind of request that should have to come from Hudgins.

But it is a request that came from Hudgins on a night that he recorded the first triple-double in Northwest’s program history, in the midst of a season that has brought near-record attendance numbers. The decreased noise level within Bearcat Arena, which isn’t exactly trackable but is certainly palpable, is illogical in more ways than one.

It’s not just that the Bearcats are blowing teams out of the water like they tended to last season and like they’ve done frequently over their last four games, winning each by at least 20 points. It’s not just that the pep band was slow to make it’s 2020 debut. And it’s not that the team is less excitable than a season ago. It’s that fans are less engaged with what’s happening on the court, mostly refusing to cheer when Northwest is playing defense, the one time coach Ben McCollum has requested fans to cheer.

The team has given fans more compelling moments packed within closer games, and still, fan engagement has tapered inexplicably.

This time a year ago, Northwest was beating opponents at home by close to 20 points on a biweekly basis. If anything, there was less of a reason to cheer then than there is now. The Bearcats one regular-season home game in the calendar year of 2019 that was decided by less than 15 points. They’ve already played three such games in 2020.

Northwest is, once again, the No. 1 team in the country. The Bearcats have won 16 games in a row and 62 of their last 63 games. They’re on the cusp on clinching a seventh-straight MIAA title, a feat they could accomplish Feb. 20 with a win over Missouri Southern at Bearcat Arena.

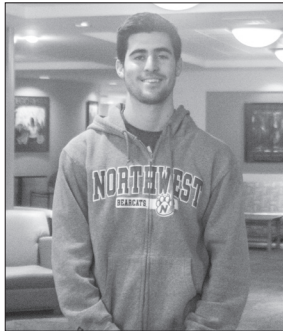
With a win over Southern, the Bearcats would make history, again. There should be fans there to see it. And they should cheer, too.

Do you ever go to Northwest men’s basketball games?



“No. I just don’t have time.”

- RaShonda Alexander | Junior
Criminal Justice



“Yeah. I always liked basketball, so, I’m a big fan of basketball. I liked the environment of the stadium, when everyone is like screaming, shouting and trying to support the Northwest team. I like that environment.”

- Agustine Velasco | Junior
Finance Management



“I do not. I am not interested in basketball.”

- Jonah Yeomans | Junior
English



“No, I should. I just don’t know when they are actually.”

- Rita Sargent | Sophomore
Social Science Ed

Comparing misery creates toxic culture

NATHAN ENGLISH
Columnist
@ThananEnglish



Social media has taught the human race a few things: grandmas are wild cards in the comment sections, keeping up with people from high school is not as important as previously thought and constant comparison is harmful to the human psyche.

The problem is that the comparison culture has seeped into college life, especially with the need to compare misery — and it’s toxic.

Having the most difficult life and schedule is often seen as a source of pride, especially in college. Getting less sleep than “everyone”? Here’s a bonus point. Got a terrible professor? Add another. Studying a lot for an extremely difficult test? The trifecta has been completed.

It’s a source of pride for college students, myself included, to have a difficult schedule and receive sympathy from people for that schedule. Conversations are naturally steered towards sleep schedules, money issues and other life problems until friendships devolve into complaining about how difficult life is, which is not a great place to be.

The viewpoint of “rise and grind” culture is that a lack of sleep leads to personal achievement, human biology disagrees.

The Sleeping Foundation recommends around seven to nine hours of sleep for everyone from 18 to 64. A study done by Jawbone that was published in an NPR article shows that college students average around 7 1/2 hours of sleep a night. Funny how I and everyone I’ve ever talked to on campus slept “barely five hours.”

Getting the actual amount of sleep required helps increase energy, cognitive function and has a slew of other health benefits. Getting enough sleep should be seen as a goal and not a detriment in college culture.

The same issue of comparing sleep also translates to classwork. There is a saying in sports that there will eventually always be someone who is “stronger, bigger and faster” than whoever is playing right now, and unless your name is Bo Jackson, this has always been true. The same thing can be said about class schedules. Someone will always have a harder schedule, more difficult professors and spend more time studying than everyone else.

This comparison will always leave a person feeling empty, because someone will always have it worse. That’s why the idea of creating a hierarchy based on the difficulty of college life makes

no sense. Comparison culture also has no foundation to sit on because people lie all the time. The average 18 to 44-year-old lies about twice a day according to a National Geographic study. Humans are very unreliable when it comes to telling the truth.

For all we know, everyone is cruising with eight hours of sleep and easy classes, having a good time, but they are all lying about their extremely difficult lives. People end up comparing who can lie more convincingly about their personal misery.

College students have different lives with numerous intricacies that make it nearly impossible to compare one person’s misery to another, so let’s not waste time trying. If for some reason someone comes out on top of that “misery argument,” are they really even winning or are they losing the point?

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SUDOKU

By MetroCreative

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HOROSCOPE

By MetroCreative

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may want to pick up a relationship right where you left off, but the other person may not be as amenable. Bide your time and give this person some space.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

A few extra goals never hurt anyone, Taurus. Sit down and see how your new resolutions can be turned into ways to achieve all of those tasks you hope to get done.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, while you may want to expand your social circle right now, you're just not sure how to get started. Networking opportunities may be the way to go.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

There is no point getting into a disagreement over a situation you have no control over right now, Cancer. Instead, wait for the right opportunity to express your position.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, take a step back from responsibilities at work to devote more energy to your relationships at home. Embrace activities that your family can enjoy together.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Some melancholy may have you seeking out quiet corners, Virgo. Distancing yourself from the crowds is only a temporary fix. Instead, look for activities you find soothing.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Someone close to you may be feeling under the weather and could use some extra support, Libra. Take a few days off to be the rock that this person can use right now.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Friends may make excessive demands on your time this week, Scorpio. As a generous person, you want to go along with it all, but be careful not to overextend.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, you are usually outgoing, but this week you may be feeling more shy and reserved. It could be because you are missing someone.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Don't take what you hear this week at face value, Capricorn. The information that has been coming your way may not be entirely accurate. Make up your own mind.

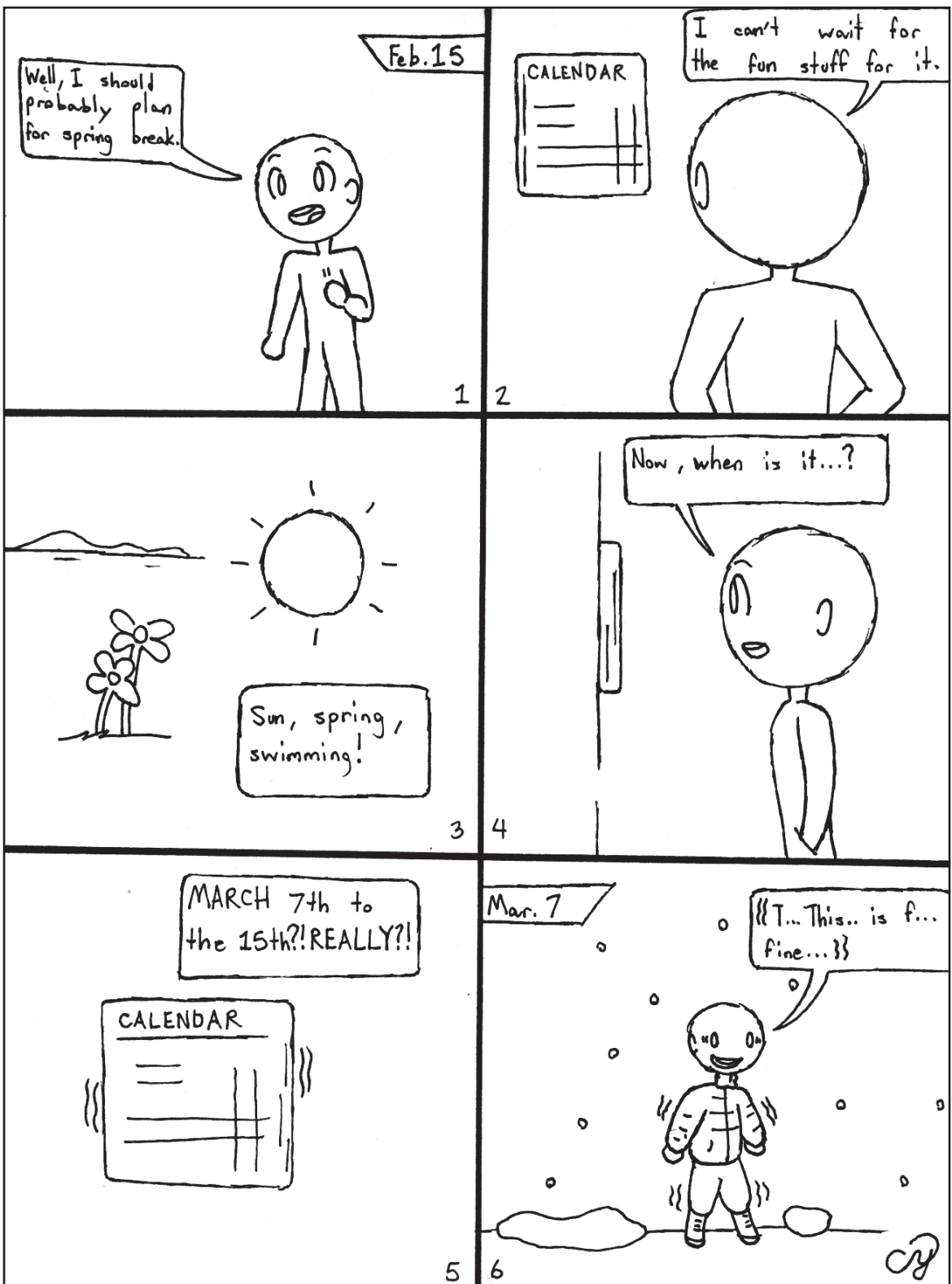
AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Group activities or time spent with a spouse may not go as well as usual this week, Aquarius. Your mind is elsewhere. Until you are focused, things may seem stressed.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

A minor disagreement could have you questioning a relationship, Pisces. Don't fret, as you'll soon find that the turmoil is short-lived.

Spring break or winter break?



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

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CROSSWORD

By MetroCreative

Last Week's Solutions

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Expression of disgust
4. A place to unwind
7. A type of cooking range
8. Grasp tightly
10. Sea eagles
12. Carb dish
13. Late-night host
14. Revolutions per minute
16. Indicates odd or erroneous
17. FDR's military chief of staff
19. Swiss river
20. Norwegian district and river
21. A form of motivation
25. Car mechanics group
26. Once a must-have home theater accessory
27. Broken branch
29. Apple and pumpkin are two
30. Skeletal muscle
31. Small Eurasian deer
32. Tight-lipped fellow
39. Comes after a cut
41. A place one lives
42. Cognizant of
43. Albanian monetary unit
44. Carrot's partner
45. Famed garden
46. Chilean seaport
48. Days (Spanish)
49. Sudden anxiety
50. 100 square meters
51. A type of beer
52. French/Belgian river

CLUES DOWN

1. Spanish dish
2. Concurs
3. ___and her sisters
4. Patti Hearst's captors
5. Used to refer to cited works
6. A state of excited movement
7. Advertising term (abbr.)
9. Nocturnal S. American rodent
11. New York art district
14. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

[illegible]

15. Pre-release viewing
18. Northwestern Canadian territory (abbr.)
19. Consumed
20. Falters
22. Radioactive form of an element
23. Catch a wrongdoer
24. Breeze through
27. Thick piece of something
28. Yellowish-brown color
29. "The Raven" poet
31. Rural free delivery (abbr.)
32. Creating
33. Supervises flying
34. Northwestern state
35. Was obligated to repay
36. Diverging in lines from a common center
37. Bleak
38. We all have them
39. Hit with the palm of one's hand
40. Sea that's part of the western Pacific
44. Political action committee
47. Famed Spanish soldier El ___

UN-BEE-LIEVABLE

Bee populations across the nation have declined by nearly half

RACHEL ADAMSON
Editor-in-Chief | @rachadamsonn

Over the course of a 10-month span, the Northwest Beekeeping Club has lost 50% of its bee hives.

In April the Beekeeping Club purchased 12 pounds of bees, enough for four hives, each suited with a queen bee, respectively. The bees were doing well — producing 80 pounds of honey, enough to give to the Board of Regents and other organizations; the blueberry bushes on the back end of campus were loaded with blueberries after years of hardly producing — until one day in the late fall when the bees weren’t doing so well anymore.

The four hand-painted hives on the edges of the University Pellet Plant, where just days ago the bees were abuzz, had a deadout. All of the sudden, dead bees were scattered around one of the hives. The Beekeeping Club had lost its first hive, dropping the hive count down to three. It wouldn’t be long until the club would lose another hive.

Pat Ward, the Beekeeping Club adviser and Arboretum director, sent the dead bees off to be tested by experts. The experts’ results were inconclusive. They didn’t know why the bees died. All they knew was what didn’t happen. The bees didn’t die from parasites, deformed wing disease or any other virus.

“It was one of our stronger hives,” Ward said. “It was like mass suicide. I don’t know what happened. The experts couldn’t tell us.”

Further along into the fall, the Beekeeping Club lost its second hive.

This time though, there were no dead bees scattered across the ground. There were no bees at all.

“Bees can all of the sudden decide ‘This isn’t my favorite place; we’re going to go live someplace else,’ and poof, out the door they go,” Ward said.

The plummeting bee population felt in Maryville is also spreading across the nation. A study released by Science Magazine Feb. 7 found that bumblebee populations in the U.S. have fallen by 46%. In Europe, the bumblebee population has dropped by 17%.

Northwest had **four** beehives in April, the beekeeping club now has **two** beehives.



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Pat Ward, Beekeeping Club adviser and Arboretum director, unloads a package of bees at the Beekeeping Club Ribbon Cutting Ceremony April 22 when campus installed four beehives. Since April the Beekeeping Club has lost 50% of its bees.

The study claimed that climate change was to blame for the majority of the bee population decrease. It noted that climate change comes with an increased number of days with hotter temperatures, leading to the intensifying bee population decline.

“To start with I thought we were in a super situation,” Ward said of the Beekeeping Club. “The bees were doing just fine. And then all of the sudden we lost two hives.”

“
We were doing just fine. And then all of the sudden we lost two hives.”
- PAT WARD, BEEKEEPING ADVISER

Beekeeping Club President sophomore Abigail Rosonke said the bees they received last April didn’t know how to survive the winter, which, in some ways, has led to the 50% loss. The bees were supposed to be shipped from North Carolina, which experiences mild winters, but were instead found to be shipped from Georgia, which doesn’t experience winter like the Midwest.

The inconsistent winter weather patterns in the Midwest is harsh on the bees, Rosonke said.

“One day it’s negative nine degrees, and the next it’s 45 degrees,” Rosonke said. “Not only are your bees going through this whole adjustment period to get ready for winter, but all the sudden they think it’s spring. They’re out looking for flowers and there aren’t any because it’s January.”

The turn from winter to spring last year came sooner than usual, Rosonke said. She’s worried if this pattern repeats itself, the bees on campus will come out of their hives before any flowers have had the chance to grow. The bees will return from searching for food with

nothing but wasted energy, forcing the Beekeeping Club to feed the bees more than usual.

In central Illinois, 310 miles one-way from campus, sits the 50 acres that Ward calls home for four nights a week. There, Ward has also lost bees. He started beekeeping 20 years ago when he said it was easy. There were no Varroa mites to worry about then. Ward’s beehives eventually died out and he didn’t get any more until recently,

come back,” Ward said.

About a month ago Ward and his wife got a dog. Ward was hesitant at first to agree to a dog because it would scare off the wildlife, but more specifically, the deer he feeds from standing just a few feet away.

But sure enough, the two filled out adoption paperwork at the pound. After completing required paperwork, the pound told them it would call in a couple of days after determining if the two were fit to house a dog. Ward chuckled to himself, recounting raising racoons, foxes, owls and deer from his house secluded on 50 acres. Before the two even drove half a city block, they received a call from the pound and turned around to pick up the dog they had adopted. Ward thought it was going to be a golden retriever, but it turned out to be a mutt.

Ward brings the knowledge he gains from his personal hives in central Illinois along with him back to campus on that 310 mile drive, where he chips away the time counting birds he sees flying near the highway. The most he’s counted is 57. On his way to campus this week, he saw a couple of bald eagles. He listens to the NPR station and sometimes the Willie Nelson radio.

When Ward gets back to Maryville, he has to help care for what’s left of a once thriving bee population.

To keep the standing two hives alive for the duration of the remaining winter with no

natural food source, the Beekeeping Club feeds them a sugar water solution and pollen patties. The club checks on the bees about three times a month in the winter and once a week during the busy season, the warmer months.

The Beekeeping Club is planning to add two hives of Russian bees, imported from Louisiana, in March. Russian bees are used to colder temperatures and will expectedly survive at higher rates than the caucasian bumblebee, which the club has two remaining hives of.

Ward said the Russian bees are known for being a little more aggressive, which will be an adjustment for the Beekeeping Club that has only worked with the cool-tempered caucasian bumblebee. The two hives of Russian bees will be kept at the R.T. Wright Farm.

“We’re at a point right now where we can stop bee population decline,” Rosonke said. “It just requires more people to take more practical action.”

According to the Honeybee Coalition, honeybees pollinate 1 in 3 consumed bites on average.

“A large part of what we eat comes from pollination by insects, and so maybe we need to start taking care of our bees better,” Ward said. “That’s one of the reasons for the Beekeeping Club.”

46%
of bumblebee
populations in
North America
have dropped

50%
of bumblebee
populations at
Northwest have
dropped

17%
of bumblebee
populations in
Europe have
dropped



MARTINA PASCUZZO | NW MISSOURIAN

Dave Neustadter filled the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building on Feb. 13 with laughter and amazement as he told the story of how he went from Maryville to working in New Line Cinema, a movie production company, as an executive producer in Los Angeles.

Film producer returns to Maryville

SARA ROBKE
A&E Reporter | @TheMissourian

Dave Neustadter, a Hollywood executive producer, visited his hometown and spoke at the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building from 7:30-9 p.m. Feb. 13. He was invited by Kenton Wilcox, an old friend and professor at Northwest, to be one of the speakers for the Distinguished Lecture Series. The Distinguished Lecture Series is put together by faculty members who are involved in different departments to bring in a variety of lecturers. Wilcox said that it's a lot of hard work but the audience can benefit from each person's story. "We bring in people with experiences that can relate to campus," Wilcox said. Neustadter has produced horror movies such as "The Conjuring" series, "IT" and "IT Chapter Two" and many other movies. Neustadter, the latest guest speaker in the series, and his family moved to Maryville in 1992. He met Wilcox and some of his other friends when

he was around 11 or 12 years old. "Wilcox used to come over and have intellectual conversations with my parents," Neustadter said, smiling. Before moving to Maryville, Neustadter had not been to the Midwest. He confessed to the crowd that he imagined it would be like the movie "Footloose." "I wanted to be the cool, new guy who brought back dancing and music," Neustadter said. Neustadter realized that Maryville was not as conservative as he initially thought, since it was a college town. He eventually managed to find an "island of misfit toys" group of friends of his own. When Neustadter graduated from Maryville High School, he decided to go to Indiana University and did not declare a major until his junior year. "I declared a major in theater," Neustadter said. "My dad asked me, 'What are you going to do?' and I didn't know what to say." After graduating from IU, Neustadter continued with graduate school. He

said that he was so miserable, he created an incentive in order to finish his projects. He would promise himself he could watch a movie if he wrote a paper or finished a project. One day, Neustadter recalled driving into the university's parking lot, listening to "Rocky" theme music, while punching his steering wheel out of frustration. His professor saw him and called him to his office. "He asked me what I wanted to do, and that's when I realized I wanted to go into movies," Neustadter said. Neustadter dropped out of graduate school and moved to Los Angeles. There, he enrolled in Loyola Marymount University for screenplay. Neustadter started working in a restaurant where he met Luke Ryan, a story editor at New Line Cinema. "Ryan gave me his business card and told me if I found myself in LA, he would take me to lunch and possibly give me an internship," Neustadter said. Neustadter called MLU and dropped out of grad school, again. He

moved in with one of his friends from college, where they lived in a two-bedroom apartment with three other guys. "I slept on the loveseat for two months," Neustadter said, "with my legs hangin' off the edge." Neustadter emailed Ryan, and they met up for lunch at a local sandwich shop. Ryan offered him an internship at New Line Cinema. While interning at New Line Cinema, Neustadter copied a lot of scripts and made a lot of coffee. After four months, Neustadter was offered an on-call temp job for \$10 an hour. After another four months, he moved on to be a paid intern for 48 hours a week for a whole year. Neustadter then became an assistant and worked his way into a role as an executive producer. "It was worth it; it brought me where I am today," Neustadter said, "I've been at New Line Cinema for 16 years now." Neustadter wished the best to all the young people who are planning to be in the entertainment industry.

THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat is not a fan of people holding the door for them

When it comes to holding doors, it seems like there are two types of people: those who think "We're all in this together" and those who think it's every man for himself. With either, there's really no winning. Each time a door slams in my face just seconds before I'm about to grab the handle, I curse the person that passed through just a bit too soon. You couldn't have stuck your hand back a little farther so I wouldn't have to waste three seconds of my day to open it myself? I hope the next door catches your foot, or the tip of your finger. That'll show you. While I respect your "There's no looking back" mentality in most instances, this is not one of them. But, honestly, the "We're all in this together" group is even worse. The people who stop specifically to hold the door for the person who is still 15 feet away. Ugh. I'm glad you got your act of kindness in for the day, but you're setting the bar a little too high. Am I expected to do the same now? Lord knows I don't have time for that, with how huge our campus is. With only 10 minutes to get all the way from Wells to Valk, there's no time to lose. I know it's awkward for all the kind souls out there to determine when it's acceptable to let the door close. But if we all waited to hold the door for that person who is still at the Bell Tower, we'd be out here all day. So, please, everyone, just abide by the simple "open, glance, pause, go on" technique. Just because you can see a person who at some point may or may not be entering the building coming toward you, that does not mean you have to wait. But if they're within arm's reach, you might as well reach your arm out to hold the door for them.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian. Submit a Stroller to northwestmissourian@gmail.com



MARTINA PASCUZZO | NW MISSOURIAN

Student actors junior Wyatt Cooper and senior Sydney Martin faced many setbacks in preparing for the production of "Glass" by Michael Aman performed on Valentine's Day weekend.

Two student actors star in 80-minute one-act show

ABBEY HUGO
Copy Editor | @abbey_hugo

Two people. 80 minutes. Non-stop dialogue and an emotional rollercoaster. Theatre Northwest's Feb. 14-15 production of "Glass" by Michael Aman was a true feat for many reasons. The play revolved around the fictional encounter between Tennessee Williams, the playwright of "The Glass Menagerie," and Laurette Taylor, the play's original lead, on the opening night of "The Glass Menagerie" in 1944. The conversation is both progressively intense as well as emotionally intimate as the two delve into their respective fears: Taylor's fear of being unknown or irrelevant and Williams' fear of failure, by his own doing or hers. With only one act, two actors and a dressing room set no larger than a dorm room in Hudson-Perrin Residence Halls, the play seems simplistic. The actors, however, attested that it was anything but. Both actors memorized more lines than they had ever done for any other production. They also did so in about three weeks. Junior Wyatt Cooper, who played Williams, laughed uncontrollably at the idea of even trying to summarize

the difficulties and complications of a two-person show. "Oh, boy, let me tell you," Cooper said. "Being a two-person show means that each person has about half the lines. ... Learning that in a short amount of time is hard. And when it's only the two of you, that means you can only have each other to count on during the show." The pair had a shorter time table than normal for a show of this size. The first week of rehearsals was canceled due to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival and the University Resident Theater Association, which stole four members of the cast and crew. Fortunately, the two had some preexisting chemistry from acting together in a previous production, Senior Sydney Martin, who played Taylor, said. "We've done a show together before too, so it's a little bit easier for us because we're comfortable with each other's acting styles/abilities, so we know kind of how to catch each other," Martin said. The cast had to overcome the additional challenge of low attendance, which director, senior Hannah Jahal attributed to the show's unfortunate timing on Valentine's

Day weekend. On opening night, Feb. 14, there were eight audience members sitting in the Black Box Theater in Ron Houston Center for Performing Arts. The following night drew about ten. "I knew we were going to have a small audience; I think at the beginning it kind of threw me off with how few people were here," Cooper said. "Playing off the energy of the audience is always a pretty important part of acting, I would say. It's really hard when there's an audience that's so small and self-conscious of themselves that I don't think that even they know when to laugh." The location was a change resulting from unanticipated circumstances as well. The show was also originally meant to be another play altogether, but it was changed to account for casting constraints, with much of the usual assets participating in the 30-person play scheduled for Feb. 21-23. An obstacle with the chosen play, "Glass," is its deep-seeded connection to "The Glass Menagerie." The first 20 minutes, and many other allusions throughout, rely on an assumption of the audience's familiarity with "The Glass Menagerie," Jahal said.

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TITLE

CONTINUED FROM A12

“What I consider a frontrunner is; you only run when you’re in front,” McCollum said. “And so, when things don’t go your way, you get upset. You don’t compete. You don’t fight. ... We try to approach each game like it’s the biggest game of the year, and so this will be no different than any other game that we’ve played.”

This is the first game all season, though, that will immediately precede a trophy-presentation and a crop of championship T-shirts if Northwest wins. In that sense, it is different. While Northwest fights to extend a record streak of conference title victories, the Lions will be fighting to extend their own opportunity to dethrone the Bearcats.

With three conference losses on their ledger, the Lions remain the closest team to Northwest in the MIAA standings and the team with the most viable outside chance of winning the conference. The Feb. 20 matchup, of course, could extend Southern’s hope or seal Northwest’s fate. And it comes in the midst of Northwest’s toughest slate of games this season.

After traveling through Joplin, Missouri, and Pittsburg, Kansas, a week ago and picking up two conference victories, Northwest will play host to Southern and Pitt State over the weekend before squaring off with Missouri Western in St. Joseph, Missouri, Feb. 25 and hosting Washburn Feb. 27 in the regular-season finale.

The nature of the late-season scheduling leaves Northwest will little time to adjust in aftermath of its trip through southern Missouri and Kansas, McCollum said. And the week ahead, one that includes a stretch of four games in eight days, adds another degree of difficulty.

“It won’t take the legs out,” McCollum said. “It’s a tough stretch.

It’s six games against some of the best teams in the league with the last two games included in it, so it just is what it is. If you want to perform, you’ve got to play the best. We’ve never shied away from it.”

With four games between Northwest and the start of the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri, the Bearcats have hit a stride in the closing leg of the conference season. Over its last seven games, matching up against the likes of Southern, Lincoln and Central Missouri — the only team to beat Northwest in the last 23 months — Northwest has caught fire.

In its last seven matchups, dating back to an 83-57 win over Fort Hays State Jan. 25, Northwest has shot more than 58% from the field, 52% from beyond the arc and has beat opponents by an average of 28.1 points per game.

The Bearcats have been led over the stretch by sophomore guard Trevor Hudgins, who’s shooting 59.2% from the field, 57.6% from 3-point line and averaging 25.1 points per game since Jan. 25. The sophomore has won the MIAA Player of the Week award twice in as many weeks.

In his 10 years of coaching at Northwest, McCollum said he hasn’t seen anything quite like the stretch the Bearcats are on. He’s not sure anyone has.

“I don’t know that it’s probably been seen a lot (in the) NCAA,” McCollum said. “I’ve had teams play just as well in spurts or better in spurts even, but statistically, offensively, it’s fairly unheard of.”

McCollum admitted that he didn’t see this coming, both in regards to his team’s performance of late and its offensive prowess all season. Seeing it coming, he said, would have required him to look ahead, something he avoids.

For McCollum, the surprising aspect of Northwest’s latest tear through the MIAA comes with the



ANDREW WEGLEY | NW MISSOURIAN
Sophomore guard Diego Bernard has shot 47.5% from the field and averaged more than 12 points per game in Northwest men’s basketball’s last seven matchups. Northwest is outscoring opponents by 28 points per game in that stretch.

nuances of its offense. While it isn’t easily recognizable, the team’s offensive scheme is different than what it was a year ago, the result of adjustments that took much of the season, adjustments that seem to have paid off.

While McCollum dissected the nuances of his offense and lamented his tough schedule and hyped his team’s recent performance, he didn’t offer thoughts on the historic run his team has been on for three seasons. Northwest has lost six of its last 130 games. The coach won’t reflect on a season

that hasn’t ended yet.

“At the end, it’s always good to reflect and look back, but I just think that that’s when you get caught, man,” McCollum said. “When you start to relish in the ego of feeling good about yourself, then you get caught and you don’t continue to improve.”

For the second season in a row, McCollum’s team sits on the verge of history. The Bearcats were the first team in the MIAA’s history to win six-consecutive regular-season conference titles. McCollum didn’t have much to say about what seven

in a row might feel like. The Bearcats haven’t won seven yet, he said.

McCollum’s not trying to get caught up in reflection too early. He’s focused on progress and the process and wins and losses. He’s focused on another matchup with Missouri Southern.

“Six in a row is awesome. Six in a row is unbelievable,” McCollum said. “It’s never been done in the MIAA. But, yeah, no, we haven’t won seven.”



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest sophomore Omar Austin automatically qualified for nationals in the 400-meter dash during the Gorilla Classic at Pittsburgh State Feb. 15 with a time of 46.67.

TOURNAMENT

CONTINUED FROM A12

If the Bearcats are able to tame the Lions, it will guarantee a spot in the MIAA Tournament for the first time since the 2017-18 season when it was in Edmond, Oklahoma. The last time the Bearcats participated in the tournament when it was in Kansas City, Missouri, was the 2013-14 season.

With a single win during the last four games, or a loss from Newman in its last three, the Bearcats will return to Kansas City.

“I mean it’s really exciting to think about,” McConkey said. “Just because none of us have been there. Just to be able to go play in Kansas City is awesome. ... I’m really excited to get there.”

For Northwest to not reach the tournament, it would take complete catastrophe from the Bearcats and utter triumph from Newman (9-16, 4-12 MIAA).

The position isn’t one that Northwest is accustomed to. The last time that Northwest won a game in the tournament was during the 2012-13 season. It’s a dry spell

that’s plagued the program pre-dating the Austin Meyer Era by six years. No person involved in the program now was on the roster when the women last won a conference tournament game. The last time the Bearcats won a tournament game, McConkey was in eighth grade.

“Just know that we’re playing meaningful games at this point in the season with a chance to get to Kansas City is huge for us,” Meyer said.

“Still, obviously, we all know we have a long way to go to where we want to be,” Meyer said. “But just

to see how far we’ve come is huge.”

The sermon that Meyer has preached to everyone surrounding the program is the fact the Bearcats aren’t worried about Kansas City, the MIAA Tournament or what’s to come next week. Instead, they’re focused on the game to show up next on the schedule. That, of course, is the one against Southern that could help the Bearcats clinch their spot to compete in the conference tournament.

The matchups with Southern and Pitt this weekend, along with the ones against Missouri Western

and Washburn next week, serve as measuring sticks to see where Northwest sits among the ranks of the conference. The Bearcats will get to each game whenever it comes time to play it. But the matchups in the coming weeks, in some ways, hold more significance than any played to this point in the season.

“Almost treat every game like a playoff game because, basically, it is,” Meyer said. “So if we can just keep getting better, keep competing game-in and game-out, then get to Kansas City, we’ll see what happens.”

Northwest tennis hopeful ahead of season

CRAIG MCMULLEN
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Northwest tennis starts its season Feb. 28 against William Jewel in Liberty, Missouri.

Both the men and women will be doing a lot of traveling this season. They’ll travel to Arkansas, Oklahoma and other places in Missouri for matches before they compete in Maryville.

Leading up to the season debut, the team is working out twice a week early in the morning Mondays and Fridays. In addition to the team workouts, the men and women are practicing individually for

nearly an hour every day. Sometimes, the team tries to fit in extra practices so it can feel confident going into each matchup.

Sophomores Franco Oliva from the men’s team and Julia Aliseda from the women’s team are both indulged in the preparation that goes in weeks before the season starts.

“For me, I really want to be motivated because this season is like a team,” Oliva said. “When I play a match, I want to be confident because one point can really help my team win.”

“I try to practice as much as I can to be ready and in the match,

I try to do what I did in practice,” Aliseda said. “Also, I do what I can to support my teammates because what they do helps the team.”

Oliva said that his goals for this season are to give his best. As a team, he wants to go to regionals and Nationals. Last season, the women were a part of the national tournament, making a deep run. Oliva’s motivation stems from the videos that he watched of the women competing, making him want to help the men’s team be on the same level.

Aliseda said that she thinks that the team has a chance to get back

to where they were last year. The team, she added, has to play great in matches and work hard in practices.

Heading into her second year, Aliseda said her confidence has boosted when compared to her freshman year. That is because of the familiarity with the competition that she’s facing. Now that she’s a sophomore, she said, she knows the schools better than last year.

Oliva thinks that the most challenging team to face this season for the men’s team will be Washburn, which Northwest was ranked ahead of in the preseason rankings. Aliseda thinks the most challenging

UP NEXT

NW @ William Jewel
Feb. 28

team for the women will be Central Oklahoma, which was the team voted ahead of Northwest in the pre-season rankings.

Oliva said that he already knows who he’s going to face this year against Washburn, so he’s ready to prepare for the challenge when it presents itself. Aliseda said that if the Bearcats have great practices, then they will win when they face Central Oklahoma.

Two Spoofhounds qualify for state

ROMAN METCALF
Sports Reporter I @Roman_metcalf87

The Maryville wrestling team competed in the Class 2 District 4 Tournament Feb. 14-15 in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.



The Class 2 District 4 tournament is held every wrestling season. The district tournament is the second-biggest wrestling event of the year. This multi-round tournament dictates who advances to state and who will have to try again next year. The 'Hounds were able to send six men and had two come out victorious.

The 'Hounds are sending senior Gaven Gray and junior Kieren Watkins to the Missouri Wrestling State Championships. The tournament will take place Feb. 20-22 in Columbia, Missouri, at the University of Missouri.

At districts, Gray placed third in the 170-pound weight class, and Watkins placed fourth in the 195-pound weight class.

Gray punched his ticket to the state tournament with a 4-0 decision. For his last chance to win a state title, he wouldn't have dreamed it any other way, Gray said.

"It feels good going to state," Gray said. "But there is nothing to celebrate, I still have stuff to accomplish with my season."

Gray said he is sad his high school athletic career is nearing an end. There's one goal in mind, Gray said, and that's to come home with a medal.

Last season was Gray's first time

going to the district championship, where he eventually qualified for state. Gray lost in the bubble round of the state championship. Gray was one match away from wrestling through the gantlet of the consolation bracket and medaling at state.

Although Gray found himself eliminated from the state tournament, his mindset never changed.

"I'm going to rely on my training and staying in the best shape that I can," Gray said. "For me, mentally, I just gotta go out there and stay confident against whoever my opponent is."

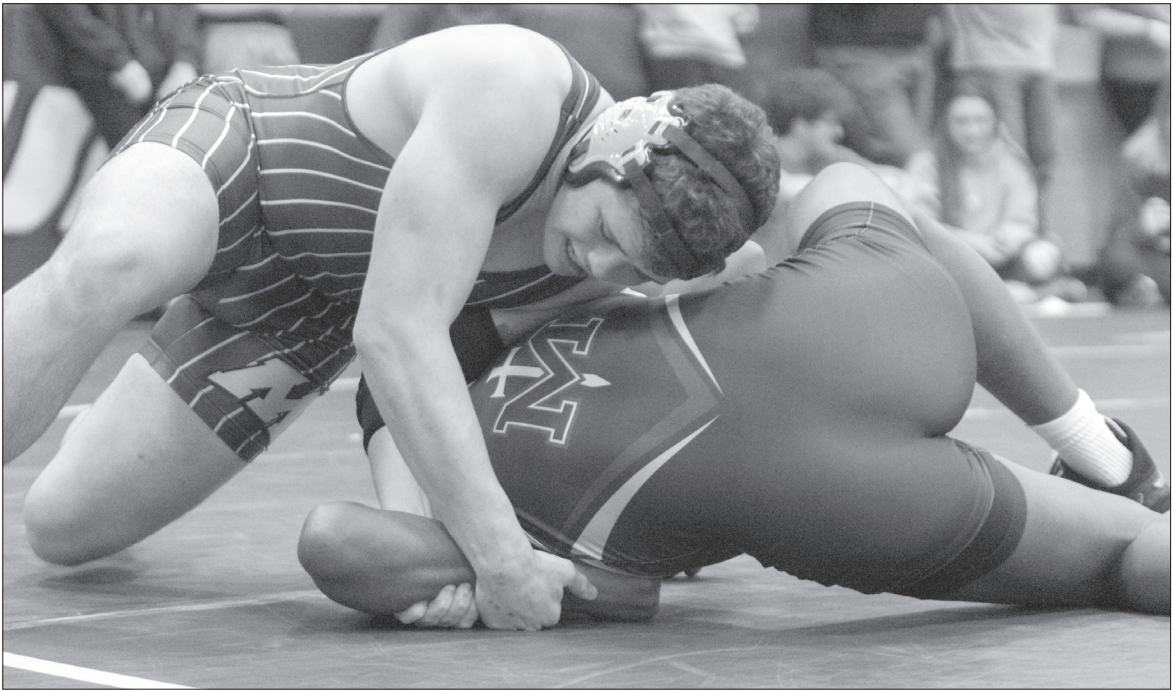
Watkins isn't new to the grand stage either. He placed second at districts last season, which qualified him for state as well. Watkins saw the same results at the state tournament that his teammate Gray did. Gray made it further than Watkins, who dropped both of his first two matches, which ended his season.

If Watkins wanted to get back to championship contention, he said, he would have to work harder and go compete at every practice, dual and tournament.

"In the weeks following up to districts, I knew I was going to have to outwork everyone else in order to make it on the podium," Watkins said. "I maintained focus and did some of my best work to continue to improve as a wrestler."

For Watkins, he couldn't be happier to be back in the position he was in last year, he said. None of this would be possible without a strong support system behind him, he added.

"It feels amazing to have se-



MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville wrestling senior Kieran Watkins qualified to the MSHSAA Wrestling State Championships Feb. 20-22 in Columbia, Missouri. Watkins is aiming to finish his senior year with a medal at the tournament.

cured a spot at state," Watkins said. "I am so blessed to have the people in my life to help me and push me to do my best, especially my coaches and fellow teammates."

For the first-year coach Dallas Barrett, Watkins and Gray are the first athletes that he will take to the state championships. He said that he's very excited for both wrestlers to have the opportunity to accomplish the goals that they've worked for all season.

Barrett said he plans on pushing Watkins and Gray to take what they learned from districts and im-

plement that into practice so both of them can get over that hump of not being a state champion.

"We will continue to work hard and make some adjustments from districts," Barrett said.

With that, Watkins plans to add to Barrett's motivation and do what he can do to get himself over that hump.

"Going into the state championship, I am going to work extremely hard and focus on the small, fine details that still need to be fixed," Watkins said.

Whether it's Watkins or Gray,

Barrett has high expectations for

UP NEXT

MSHSAA State Tournament
Feb. 20-27

both of them. He's watched them wrestle for the better part of three months, and he'll watch them wrestle, win or lose, for the final time this season in Columbia.

"I'm excited to see them perform," Barrett said. "It's time for their best wrestling of the year."



AMANDA WISTUBA | FILE

Senior pitcher Rachel Smith has allowed 23 earned runs while logging 27.2 innings on the mound for Northwest softball, recording a 5.82 ERA and a 1-3 win-loss record across seven outings for the Bearcats.

GUNNAR MCHENRY
Sports Reporter I @NWMSports

DALTON TRUSSEL
Sports Reporter I @NWMSports

Last week, the Northwest softball team and coach Ryan Anderson were optimistic that the team would have success this season. The Bearcats will look to continue that spirit in hopes of getting themselves back to any sort of winning ways.



The Bearcats' road trip to Bentonville, Arkansas, ended in disappointment as they went winless in four games at the Alvy Early Classic Feb. 15-16. The Bearcats faced the likes of Arkansas Tech (6-6), Southeastern Oklahoma State (8-4), Southern Arkansas (10-2) and Maryville (3-5) during the road trip and lost each game by at least seven runs, falling to 2-7 on the season.

"We just couldn't put things together," Anderson said.

Northwest's Feb. 15 matchup against Arkansas Tech ended in a 17-10 defeat, a rare offensive explosion for the Bearcats this season. Specifically, the burst was in part from sophomore infielder Olivia Daugherty, who finished with two runs and three RBI's courtesy of her three-run home run in the fifth inning. The loss would end up being

the team's closest game of the trip.

The Bearcats followed the loss with another losing effort against Southeastern Oklahoma State, a game that saw the Bearcats leave the second inning with a 1-0 lead due to a solo homer from senior infielder Karli Allen. However, that lead would vanish after a four-run third inning from the Savage Storm and never be regained. Daugherty scored again, this time off of a single in the third inning by senior infielder Erin Keeney. Despite the efforts early on, Northwest eventually lost 10-2.

The following day saw a pair of eight-run deficit defeats as the team lost 8-0 to Southern Arkansas and 9-1 to the Maryville Saints, amassing eight combined hits over both games while giving up 16. Daugherty, for the second day in a row, was able to find home plate, scoring the only run for the Bearcats. The lone Bearcat run in two games on the second day came via a third-inning single from senior center fielder Sydne Brashear against Maryville.

"Whether it was offense, whether it was defense, we would make plays defensively, but we'd have a mistake and they'd follow it up with a double in the gap and score two runs," Anderson said. "(Other

UP NEXT

NW @ 5-States Classic
Feb. 21-23

teams) hit and really took advantage of our mistakes."

Since a 2-0 start to the season, the Bearcats have lost seven straight games, losing by an average of more than six runs. The team's offensive output has been rather minimal to this point in the season, scoring three runs or less in all but one of the team's seven losses. Perhaps more telling, though, has been the team's overall defense, which has surrendered 63 combined runs over those seven losses.

"We're getting a mental block saying 'Man, we made a mistake,' but we've got to move on from it," Anderson said. "It's a game of failure and mistakes, and you've got to be able to move on."

Northwest will have an opportunity to right the ship Feb. 21-23 with six games at the 5-State Classic in Emporia, Kansas. The Bearcats will have two chances to avenge their loss to Maryville, additional rematches against Minnesota State (4-1) and Concordia-St. Paul (2-3) and first-time meetings for this season against Wayne State (3-3) and Minnesota Duluth (2-4).

Baseball seeking consistency after losing southern road trip

JESS GREIMAN
Sports Reporter I @NWMSports



The Northwest baseball team traveled to Joplin, Missouri, Feb. 14-17 where it played four games in hopes of returning to Maryville with four wins.

The Bearcats, in all four games combined, scored six runs. That total served as a gut check for a Northwest offense that had been the driving factor behind the Bearcats' success the week prior. The struggles at the plate led to Northwest being outscored 21-6 across all of its games and sending the Bearcats back to Maryville with no wins to show for their efforts.

"Even though this weekend didn't go as planned, we still had good pitching and good defense," Northwest coach Darin Loe said. "I thought that the bullpen really stepped up."

Going forward, the Bearcats (5-6) may have to lean on their bats for more production. With the struggles of posting six runs in four games, the bats that were once booming have quieted down in the matter of a week.



AMANDA WISTUBA | FILE

Sophomore left-hander Gibson Brown logged 44.1 innings pitched for Northwest baseball last season, appearing in 23 games and putting up a 5.89 ERA in his freshman season. Gibson has not appeared in any of Northwest's 11 games so far in its 2020 campaign.

Two key pieces at the plate have been sophomore outfielder Jordan Peck and senior first baseman Connor Quick.

"Those guys have been swinging the bat very well so far this season," Loe said. "As a team, we really want them to continue that. Jordan and Connor have really been a huge help in what we have done so

far this season."

Peck and Quick have been rather crucial towards helping the Bearcats' offense. They've combined to post batting averages of .371 and .368, respectively.

The duo is among the top ranks of the team when it comes to total hits. The duo's production has, in part, been a key factor in the suc-

cess that Northwest has had so far. The two are looking to add to their production Feb. 21-23 when the Bearcats travel to Colorado Springs, Colorado, for a three-game series with the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.

If the Bearcats hope to find the success that escaped their grasp in Joplin, the offensive production of

UP NEXT

NW @ UC Colo. Springs
Feb. 21-23

Peck and Quick will have to transcend to the rest of the lineup.

The Bearcats, Loe said, are also hoping to bolster their bullpen. They are also hoping to bolster their bullpen. Sophomore right-handed pitcher Alex Slocum has appeared in five games this year with seven innings pitched. He has posted an ERA of 0.00 and has given up one hit to go along with seven strikeouts.

The five-game skid left the Bearcats with a losing record, something they're hoping to change as they get into the full swing of the season.

The matchup with the Mountain Lions provides the opportunity for Northwest to play its first series of the new year. That's something that will become the usual once the conference schedule comes around. The Bearcats are hoping that series wins become usual as well.

Maryville girls placed atop districts

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter I @curly_corbs

After a season laced with frosty cancellations and multi-hour bus rides, Maryville girls basketball secured the No. 1 seed in the MSHSAA Class 3 District 16 Tournament for the first time since the 2010-11 season.

At the conclusion of the district seeding meeting Feb. 15, the coaches of the district decided that the most deserving candidate for the top seed and first-round bye was Maryville (17-5). The Spoofhounds topped St. Pius (17-4), which landed the No. 2 seed.

“The other team in the district who would have a shot at it is St. Pius and we beat them,” coach Quentin Albrecht said. “When the dust had all settled, we ended up with the one seed, which I think we deserved.”

So far, Maryville has racked up 17 wins this season with an unblemished record against district foes. The only teams that the ’Hounds haven’t played are Central (Kansas City) and Cristo Rey, which grabbed the No. 6 and No. 7 spots, respectively.

Despite how well the team has performed this year, it has struggled with big-time games and its mental fortitude. However, even though the team consists of mostly freshmen, Albrecht said, that should have no effect on how the team plays come tournament time.

“Well hopefully at this stage of the year, they’re not freshmen anymore,” Albrecht said. “They have 20 games under their belt; they’ve played in three tournaments and championship games. Hopefully, that big-game experience has hardened their shell so that they’ll be ready to go.”

The ’Hounds have gone 3-3 in their last six games, two losses in which the Spoofhounds were, at some point or another, in position



JON WALKER | NW MISSOURIAN
Maryville girls basketball junior guard Serena Sundell nails a 3 over a defender. Sundell tallied 31 points in the Spoofhounds’ win over St. Pius Jan. 7.

to win. Albrecht believes that if the girls can fix the little things, they are fit to continue winning when a permanent ride home is one loss away.

One factor that can serve as a test to the mental durability of the Spoofhounds is the expectation that traditionally comes with trying to win as a top seed. A complimentary target comes attached to a team’s back when holding a high status. For the girls to have success, it’s rather essential that they learn to play with that metaphorical target on their back, as it would be for any team in the given circumstance.

“Hopefully our kids are playing with confidence but not with arrogance,” Albrecht said. “We can’t be

too arrogant because we know we are very beatable if we don’t bring our A-game.”

Albrecht expressed confidence in his team that could lift it to cutting nets at the end of the tournament inside of the gym at Cameron High School.

“I feel really confident about (winning districts),” Albrecht said. “But when it all comes down to it, (the players) have to have confidence in themselves because they’re the ones that get out on the court and play the game.”

On top of having the confidence, the Spoofhounds must be physically and mentally ready each game. The body may play the game, but the

mind gets the results, Albrecht said.

The ’Hounds have played competition that challenged each part of their in-game strategy, giving them more opportunities to improve in practice. With a first-round bye, the Spoofhounds will have more time to prepare for the winner of the Feb. 24 matchup between Lawson and Lathrop.

“Hopefully, being off will allow us some quality practice time and stay physically and mentally fresh,” Albrecht said. “There is no tomorrow if you’re not successful that night, so your preparation that night has to be the best that it’s been all year.”

Both Lathrop and Lawson

UP NEXT

MHS v Savannah
6:30 p.m. Feb. 20
’Hound Pound

are two teams that Maryville has bucked and plucked this season, so preparation should come with no surprises. But, as the NCAA Tournament has proven through the heartbreak of the postseason, upsets can happen.

“There’s no game when you get into districts that you can overlook,” Albrecht said. “There is no tomorrow if you do not win.”

IN OPINION:

Pros and cons of postseason for Maryville boys

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter
@CalvinSilvers



Maryville boys basketball is rounding out its regular season this week with games that were re-scheduled from earlier in the year.

The Spoofhounds began their roadtrip Feb. 18 against Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The ’Hounds will play their last regular season game against Mid-Buchanan Feb. 20 in Faucett, Missouri.

With another season nearing completion, it’s that special time of the year where MSHSAA gives all of us high school basketball fans the gift of district tournament brackets.

The Spoofhounds find themselves placed as the No. 2 seed in Class 3 District 16, with matchups I believe are favorable for the Spoofhounds.

I’m going to take this time, so you don’t have to, to point out the advantages and disadvantages the Spoofhounds carry into the Class 3 District 16 Tournament.

Advantage 1: Tate Oglesby

We begin with the most obvious advantage: Tate Oglesby. The 6-foot-11-inch senior guard will be one of the most, if not the most, athletic kid on the court for either team. Oglesby found himself etching his name into Maryville history as he reached the 1,000th career point mark this season.

Oglesby is able to score in a variety of ways that include free throws, 3-pointers, inside shots, post shots and even dunks. Oglesby constantly finds himself in double digit scoring and almost always leads the team in total points.

I believe Oglesby would not want to end his high school finale prematurely, meaning he’ll use his leadership and determination to carry his

team through obstacles that younger players might deem daunting.

Oglesby will cause fits for multiple defenses, which opens up the other offensive threats to score.

Advantage 2: Marc Gustafson

Earlier in the year, I wouldn’t have placed the 6-foot-9-inch junior center in the advantage category. But his recent commitment to the aggressive Spoofhound play has propelled him to receive this recognition.

His most impressive game came Feb. 11 against Cameron, where he put up 12 points and grabbed multiple rebounds. Gustafson stepped out of his usual play, which I would’ve called rather passive before this game.

Gustafson is now jumping more for rebounds instead of just trying to use his wingspan, finishing at the rim and tallying points at the free-throw line.

I cannot imagine Gustafson won’t be the tallest or at least one of the tallest players on the court at any given time. His ability to block shots at the rim, face players near or shorter in height and bestow fear in the opponent places a high price tag on him. If there was ever a perfect time to peak, it’s now.

Advantage 3: Caden Stoecklein

Who would’ve thought a freshman could contribute so much to one particular team, especially with players like Oglesby and Gustafson taking the spotlight in most games. However, 6-foot point guard Caden Stoecklein brings too many skills to the table to be ignored.

First and foremost, Stoecklein is fast. He’s hard for defenders to keep in front of them, and once he gets past you — it’s over. He’s able to finish tremendously at the rim, and if he gets fouled (which he does more often than not), I’ll put my life savings on him making his free throws.

Secondly, Stoecklein has court

UP NEXT

MHS @ Mid Buchanan
6:15 p.m. Feb. 20
Faucett, Missouri

vision that goes beyond 20/20. He can pass ahead on fast break opportunities, place the ball preciously in alley-oop attempts or find the open man in kickouts. He knows where the open man is at all times and gets the ball there with very few turnovers.

Lastly, you can’t expect him to do one thing. You expect him to pass? He’ll blow by you for a layup. You expect him to lay it up? He’ll kick it out. You expect him to not be a scoring threat? He’ll splash a 3-pointer right in your face.

Advantage 4: The Potential Early Matchups

Maryville begins its quest for the district championship against Cristo Rey. Cristo Rey scores an average of 34.2 points a game and allows 53.3 points per contest, which is perfect for Maryville.



DAKOTA WEAVER | NW MISSOURIAN

Spoofhounds freshman point guard Caden Stoecklein shoots a free throw after getting fouled by Bishop LeBlond defender Feb. 7 at Maryville High School.

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MAKAYLA POLAK | NWMISSOURIAN

Men’s team
eyes 7th MIAA
title in a row

Women on
verge of MIAA
tourney bid

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

Ben McCollum, for the most part, doesn’t care about statistics, records, accolades or point totals.

Northwest men’s basketball’s 10th-year coach is not concerned with the fact that his team is shooting 52.2% from the field over its last seven games. He is not reading into how much the No. 1 Bearcats won by last weekend, when they scored a 21-point victory over then-No. 14 Missouri Southern Feb. 13 and a 35-point win over Pittsburg State Feb. 15. He cares about wins and losses, he said. He is, as he’s repeated throughout this season and throughout his tenure, focused on the process — the daily and weekly progression and growth of the team he leads.

Ahead of Northwest’s second matchup in seven days with No. 17 Missouri Southern (19-5, 12-3 MIAA), there is one fact that defines and looms over the upcoming game. As the Bearcats (24-1, 14-1 MIAA) get set to face off with the Lions Feb. 20, McCollum isn’t focused on the fact that a win would clinch a seventh consecutive Regular Season MIAA Championship, even though everyone else’s focus is.

“I think when you start to get too into big games or whatever it may



UP NEXT

NW @ Missouri Southern
7:30 p.m. Feb. 13
Joplin, Missouri

be, I think then you become what is known as a front-runner,” McCollum said. “And we like to just continue to get better and stay process-focused.”

Northwest, of course, is the front-runner for this season’s MIAA title. The Bearcats are one victory away from cutting down nets at Bearcat Arena, something they’ve grown accustomed to. They’re one victory away from another trophy, for which McCollum’s office on the second floor Lamkin Activity Center is running out of room.

But McCollum’s version of the term “front-runner” is different, he said. He’s aware that his team is the favorite to win the title, just as it was at the start of the season in the MIAA Coaches Poll.

Front-runners aren’t process-focused, McCollum said. They put too much stock into big games. They come with the ups-and-downs that Northwest tries to avoid, he said. His own definition of a front-runner is the antithesis of what his team aims to be.

SEE TITLE | A9

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

In the presence of a group of reporters, Northwest women’s basketball coach Austin Meyer tried to tally how many consecutive times the Bearcats have lost to Pittsburg State.

He pondered on the thought of the number lying somewhere in the early stages of double-digits. Specifically, Meyer recollected that it was perhaps 12, maybe 13, straight losses to the Gorillas. With the 60-54 loss to the Gorillas in Pittsburg, Kansas, Feb. 15, that figure moved to 14.

Northwest (11-13, 6-9 MIAA) hasn’t been able to topple Pitt since an 83-76 win over the Gorillas March 5, 2011, in the MIAA Tournament.

The Bearcats, Meyer said, don’t want a bunch of moral victories. Northwest will get an opportunity at picking up a real victory in a rematch with Pitt (14-9, 10-5 MIAA) Feb. 22 in Bearcat Arena.

“Part of us growing is to just be competitive,” Meyer said. “I think there’s no doubt that we are.”

Before the Bearcats can get the chance to exorcise their demons against Pitt, they’ll have another rematch to address — one with Missouri Southern (8-15, 5-10 MIAA).

The Bearcats will be a week removed from a 67-61 loss to the Lions Feb. 13 in Joplin, Missouri, which was the first meeting of



UP NEXT

NW @ Missouri Southern
7:30 p.m. Feb. 13
Joplin, Missouri

the season between the two programs. It was a game in which the Lions led by as many as nine until the Bearcats crept to within three with 30 seconds left. It was a game in which junior forward Mallo-ry McConkey scored her then season-high with 19 points. It was a game in which the Bearcats failed to find a win.

The loss to Southern, along with the one to Pitt, McConkey said, was a feeling that was unwelcome. A week in between both of those games could, she added, be something that isn’t all that bad for the Bearcats.

“Losing both of those games, and being right there, I guess makes it a little bit better for this week,” McConkey said. “You’re still feeling those losses and just wanting to work harder at that.”

A win against Pitt, for the program, would be rather notable. It would, of course, snap a skid that’s a few weeks away from celebrating its ninth birthday. That win, if the Bearcats nab one over Southern two days before, could seem rather insignificant in the grand scheme of things.

SEE TOURNAMENT | A9

Track heads to last-minute Nebraska tune-up

NATHAN ENGLISH
Sports Reporter | @ThananEnglish

Northwest indoor track and field is racing to the finish of the regular season with one meet left on the schedule before postseason competition.

The Bearcats are competing in the Nebraska Tune-Up Feb. 21 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Coach Brandon Masters is looking to use the meet, as its name suggests, as a tune-up for his athletes before the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Champi-



onships Feb. 28-March 1 at Pittsburg State.

The Nebraska Tune-Up is once again a chance for athletes to get experience running on a 200-meter bank track, one that is drastically different from the 300-meter flat track in Carl & Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. The Bearcats missed their previous chance for experience on the same track after dropping out of the Graduate Classic Jan. 17-18 due to poor travel conditions.

The NCAA Division II Indoor

Track and Field National Championships in Birmingham, Alabama, will be on the same style of track, heightening the significance to the meet in Lincoln.

“We either get faster or smarter every time we go out and compete,” Masters said. “This is a big chance to learn and understand the oval and take that into the national championships.”

Masters said the track in Nebraska is not a particularly fast track, and he isn’t looking for great times from the athletes. He wants run-

ners to get experience on the track. Sophomore Omar Austin has a different goal.

“I wanna do a PR,” Austin said. Austin is looking for a personal record in the 200-meter dash, where his current best is around 21 seconds and 30 milliseconds. Austin wants to run as fast or faster than the automatic qualifying time for nationals, which is at 21.21. Austin hopes the bank track will aid him in his pursuit of an automatic-qualifying time.

“It’s like you’re running up a

UP NEXT

Nebraska Tune-Up
12 p.m. Feb. 21
Lincoln, Nebraska

hill and then you are running downhill,” Austin said.

“It just gives you way more momentum, and it helps my speed and power,” Austin said.

SEE TUNE-UP | A9



CAREER DAY

Wednesday, March 4
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Hughes Fieldhouse